department, it is observed that only 39 out of 950 appointments in the entire public service on Rs. 30 and above are now not open to them, *viz.*, those of the 31 Tahsildars, the 4 Division Assistants and the 4 Dewan Peishkars. This can hardly be looked upon as a hardship in view of the fundamental revolution which the proposed admission will work in the historic and solemnly pledged constitution of this State. As regards inadequacy of representation, I am prepared to take on trust the figures Mr. Thomas has given. Still, if such statistics are to be correctly gauged, we must also take note of the proportion of educated men in the particular community. However, as I mentioned incidentally in another connection, you may take it that Government appoint persons in the service not in reference to their caste, creed or colour, but solely on the ground of merit. As elsewhere, in this State also, we cannot altogether exclude a particular class merely because it happens to be the foremost in education or generally exempt another because it happens to be backward in that respect. If a community is thought to be not sufficiently represented in service, the remedy for it seems to lie in the members of that community themselves making greater advance in education and general qualifications. However, I may add that, other things being equal, preference will be given to such as deserve special encouragement. That is to say, if there are two graduate applicants, one a Brahmin and the other a Christian, other things being equal, I should give the appointment to the Christian in preference to the Brahmin. This community may rest assured that wherever possible, Government will not hesitate to give due consideration to their claims and qualifications.

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180. Desirability of paying better attention to the working of Devaswoms.

Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Mathevan (*Nedumangad*) said that pujas were not regularly and punctually performed in Sirkar temples and that many of them were in utter disrepair. He prayed that more attention might be devoted by Government to this important matter.

Mr. K. Appathura Iyer B. A., B. L., (*Neumangad*) *and Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai* (*Tovala*) spoke in support of the same view.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (*Ettumanur*) suggested that a few respectable gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood might be associated with the management of every important Sirkar Devaswom.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer (*Shencottah*) represented that at present the pay of Sirkar Devaswom employés was disproportionately low and hence corruption was inevitable in the management of most of them. He prayed that if a trustee could be appointed for each of the important Devaswoms under Government management and if his continuation in office could be made to depend upon the good will of a committee of respectable neighbouring residents, also appointed by the Sirkar, such an arrangement would go a long way towards the removal of the evil now complained of.

Mr. Sattanathan Karayalan (*Shencottah*) also spoke in support.

Reply.—In regard to the supervision of Devaswoms, all that is possible is being done and will be done hereafter. As for the committee, the suggestion will be considered along with the scheme for revision of the padivus in temples and for fixing the charges for purificatory ceremonies referred to in my address.

181. Desirability of not making any innovations in the management of Devaswoms by giving them over to santikars.

Mr. Aiyappan Pillai (*Vaikam*) who was to have spoken on this subject was not present in the Assembly.

Reply.—There is no such proposal under consideration.

182. Lending out of Devaswom funds on interest.

Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaran and Mr. Narayanan Velayudhan (*Pattanapuram*) suggested that the wealth of temples might be taken out and utilized for purposes which would fetch a profit to Government and that the revenue thereby obtained might be spent for the repair of temples.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karthavu (*Shertallay*) spoke on the desirability of empowering Division Peishkars to lend out Devaswom funds at low interest.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (*Ettumanur*) requested that Devaswom funds might be shown separately in the accounts and all surplus Devaswom revenue given out on loan to agriculturists at low interest.

Reply.—If by wealth of temples is meant any immovable property attaching to them, this cannot be alienated for obvious reasons. If, on the other hand, the representation is made about temple jewels,

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